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# Panorama

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● A voice for Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science ●



## A hot choice

Why so many international students are braving Montreal winters to study at Concordia

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## A Concordia without borders

When I became Dean of Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science six years ago, we outlined 13 academic goals for the Faculty. These goals have been the guiding principles that have shaped the work that we do.

Among our goals is an ambitious plan to internationalize our Faculty, which includes attracting the best and brightest professors from all over the world. Many of the nearly 150 professors that we have hired in the last five years have been drawn from outside of Canada and indeed from around the world. These professors have infused our academic departments with new perspectives and fresh approaches to teaching and research.

We have also sought to encourage our students to take part in international exchanges – an initiative that is growing in popularity, thanks in large part to the Quebec government's generous subsidies. I believe that there is no better preparation for life than immersing oneself in another culture.

Equally as important are our efforts to increase the number of international students on campus. While Concordia has long been established as a first-choice university for many first-generation Canadians, stepped-up marketing and recruitment efforts and innovative initiatives such as the International Undergraduate Scholarships (see page 4) have enabled us to double the number of international students in our Faculty in five years.

I have no doubt that these efforts are worthwhile. The presence of international students in our classrooms and on our campuses enriches the academic experience for all, including our Canadian students. And every time an international student graduates from our Faculty and returns to his or her home country, he or she joins a growing number of unofficial diplomats – in a sense, ambassadors for Concordia and for Canada in their native lands.

In this era of globalization, where borders are becoming less significant, it is Concordia University's responsibility to open our doors to international students and faculty. We plan on continuing our efforts in the years to come.

*Martin Singer*

Martin Singer, Dean  
Faculty of Arts & Science

**Cover photo** by Andrew Dobrowolsky: international students (from left) Olena Bykova (Cyprus), Synnove Follestad (Norway), Adila Khan (Dubai), and Yuzo Otani (Japan). See story, page 3.

**Inset photo** by Vincenzo D'Alto: Dr. Frederick Lowy, Rector of Concordia University (left), with the Honourable Allan Rock, Canada's Industry Minister, and Bill Reimer, Professor of Sociology. See story, page 12.

## A hot choice

Winters aside, the Faculty of Arts & Science continues to attract record numbers of international students

The first thing Olena Bykova noticed when she arrived in Montreal was the weather. It was the end of December and the temperature that night had dipped to minus-20 degrees Celsius – 40 degrees colder than it had been when she boarded an airplane that morning in Cyprus, the semi-tropical Mediterranean island she calls home.

The next thing that struck Bykova, though, was how warm and inviting Canadians were – from her classmates and professors at Concordia University to ordinary Montrealers on the city's streets. They lent her a hand when she set out hunting for a place to live and they came to her rescue every time she stumbled in the face of the unfamiliar, whether it was navigating through Montreal's subway system or figuring out how to deposit a cheque in an automated banking machine.

And Bykova's accent, which often drew stares on the streets of Europe, was considered charming in a multicultural city like Montreal.

"The tolerance levels are so much higher in Canada than elsewhere," says Bykova, an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Arts and Science's Department of Geography. "On the street, I don't feel different than anybody else. Sometimes I feel Canadian."

It's that welcoming, tolerant attitude – along with its reputation for offering high-quality education at a relatively affordable price – that has enabled Canada, and Montreal in particular, to become a magnet for international students.

More than 133,000 international students were in Canada on student permits in 2001 – an increase of 71 per cent from 1998, according to the Canadian Education Center (CEC) Network, a not-for-profit organization that markets Canadian education around the world.

Montreal, with 14,000 international students enrolled at its four universities in 2001, hosts more international students than any other city in Canada.

"When students go back to their home countries with a Canadian degree or diploma, they are recognized as having a quality degree or diploma," says Anne Stockdale, Director of Communications for the Vancouver-based CEC Network.

Concordia is certainly benefiting from this rise in international interest. This year, 2,425 international students are enrolled at the University – an 87 per cent increase from the 1998-99 academic year. More than 880 of those students are enrolled in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Being an English-language university in a predominantly French environment helps Concordia stand out on the international stage, says Julie Chandler, a student recruitment officer in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

"The biggest selling point is Montreal and the possibility of studying in

(see *Hot choice*, page 16)



Bykova: "Sometimes I feel Canadian."

Andrew Dobrowolsky

“When students go back to their home countries with a Canadian degree or diploma, they are recognized as having a quality degree or diploma.”

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Enman: a break from family tradition

## Due North

International prestige, affordable costs draw U.S. students to Concordia

When Timothy Enman's two older sisters graduated from high school in Worcester, Mass., they packed their bags and headed to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst – an hour's drive west of the family home.

Enman appeared to be following in their footsteps when he enrolled at the renowned state college in September of 2000. But something strange happened to Enman on his way towards completing his degree – he grew tired of his surroundings and made the decision to transfer to a Canadian university.

A year later, Enman registered in Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science, where he is completing a joint Honours program in Creative Writing and Western Society and Culture.

"At first, I had a typical American attitude towards Canada – I never thought about it," he says.

Instead, Enman has joined a growing number of American students heading north to enroll at Canadian universities. Most are attracted by the possibility of taking part in an international experience without having to travel far from home. Others, discouraged by the rising cost of tuition at U.S. colleges, are looking to Canadian schools as affordable alternatives.

"We're selling Americans a great education at a great price, and yet they're still close to home. It's a powerful argument," says Bernie Etzinger, spokesperson for the Canadian Embassy in Washington, which has taken an active role in promoting Canadian universities.

The idea appears to be catching on; at the start of the 2001-02 academic year, 4,300 Americans were enrolled at universities in Canada – an 85 per cent increase from five years earlier, according to embassy figures. Last year, the United States surpassed France for the first time as the largest source of international students in Canada.

Concordia, with 246 American students, ranks fourth among Canadian universities, trailing only McGill, the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia.

"The real challenge is to get into the American mindset," Etzinger said. "There are an extremely high number of institutions that students can choose from in the U.S., so we have to sell them something that they can't get at home."

In the case of Concordia, that often means promoting the school's unique status as an English-language institution in a French province, says Eric Goldner, a recruitment officer with extensive experience on the American recruitment circuit.

American students who are most likely to consider studying at Concordia are those who have visited Montreal in the past, as well as the children of expatriate Canadians, Goldner says. **P**

“There are an extremely high number of institutions that students can choose from in the U.S., so we have to sell them something that they can't get at home.”

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## Scholarships for top international students

Faculty to hand out another 30 this fall

It was through a chance visit to Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science web site that Yuzo Otani first learned about the Faculty's international undergraduate scholarship program.

A Japanese citizen, Otani was studying in New Brunswick at the time and says he was eager to transfer to a university in a larger Canadian city. The chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship made his decision that much easier, and he promptly moved to Concordia after winning one of the 30 scholarships.

"If it wasn't for the scholarship, I don't think that I would be in Montreal now," says Otani, who is completing a degree in Spanish Literature.

While the prestige of winning a scholarship is attractive to many students, so is the opportunity to compete for a shot at \$5,000 – a small fortune for international students who, because of Canada's employment laws, are prevented from holding jobs off campus.

The scholarship program dates back to the fall of 2000, when the Faculty awarded 10 scholarships to non-Canadian students. Last fall, the Faculty handed out 30 scholarships and plans to do so again this September.

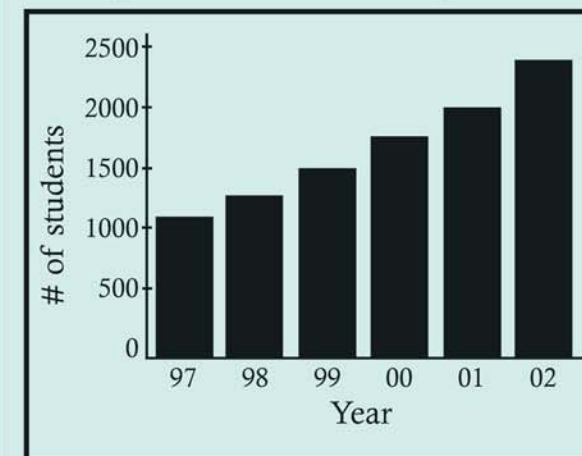
For more information, or to fill out an on-line application, visit the Faculty's web site at <http://artsandscience.concordia.ca>. The deadline for 2003-04 scholarship applications is April 1.



Otani: likes Concordia's big-city appeal

## By the numbers

The number of international students at Concordia University has doubled in the last six years.



Concordia University's international students come from 120 countries. Here are the top 10:

1.	France	422
2.	China	351
3.	United States	243
4.	India	78
5.	Lebanon	78
6.	Mexico	74
7.	Jordan	73
8.	Colombia	69
9.	Japan	61
10.	Morocco	45



## A man with a vision

TV executive has ambitious plans for one of Canada's largest non-profit broadcasters

If he had learned how to use a video camera elsewhere, Bill Roberts says that his career path might have taken a far different trajectory. But it was at Loyola College, under the influence of Jesuit professors, that Roberts first studied film and engaged in lively debates about the role of the media. And it was under the influence of those professors that Roberts learned how to harness the power of the electronic media to deliver poignant social messages.

"My media training came with that benevolent Jesuit indoctrination – that you could use the electronic media to make the world a better place," says Roberts, who graduated from Loyola in 1976 with a graduate diploma in Communication Arts.

Now in his third year as president and chief executive officer of Vision TV, Roberts has taken those lessons to heart. Shunning the wealthier private broadcasters, he has instead forged a successful career with such organizations as TV Ontario – Canada's best-known public broadcaster this side of the CBC – and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, where as vice-president of television, he crafted the world's first broadcasting standard for children's programming.

It's a policy that many today credit with reducing the amount of violence on kids' shows.

Since joining Vision TV in 2000, Roberts has steered the not-for-profit network away from its original mandate of providing Canadian television viewers with a steady diet of religious programming. Although the network still sells significant blocks of time to faith groups, Roberts has introduced a series of new shows and films that promote Canada's cultural diversity and explore social and moral issues that sometimes question the very tenets of established religious groups.

"It's about giving people an opportunity to look outside of the pre-packaged, ideological perspectives of religion," he says.

The formula seems to be working. Approximately 1.3 million Canadians tune in to Vision TV each week, according to Nielsen Media Research – this in spite of North American's growing appetite for invasive reality shows like *Survivor*, *Temptation Island* and *Joe Millionaire*.

Roberts says he has nothing against the new genre of programming, whose unscripted shows often rely on sexual trysts and manufactured romance to attract large numbers of viewers. What troubles Roberts is the growing tendency among broadcasters to treat viewers merely as prey for advertisers and not as citizens who seek education and enlightenment.

"Commercial broadcasters exist to build shareholder value, and if these types of programs help them achieve those goals, then I don't have a problem with that," he says. "What I object to is turning over our entire electronic agora to commercial imperatives. We need to harness at least a part of the television experience to help us develop as citizens." P

“My media training came with that benevolent Jesuit indoctrination – that you could use the electronic media to make the world a better place.”

## Still on the fast track

Former Olympic hopeful converts his passion for running into a career in science

Gerald Zavorsky spent the first part of his life trying to win an Olympic gold medal. He plans to spend the next number of years figuring out why it wasn't meant to be.

Once one of the country's top middle-distance runners, Zavorsky was fast enough to warrant a try-out with Canada's national track team, falling just short in his bid to win an invitation to the 1996 Summer Olympics. Intrigued by the science that fed his passion, he turned his attention to the field of exercise physiology, where scientists explore the physical and biological properties behind health and fitness.

"You don't have to be an athlete to work in the field, but it certainly helps," says Zavorsky, now in his second year as an Assistant Professor in Concordia University's Department of Exercise Science. "I know what it's like to run races, so I can relate to the research in a different way than if I hadn't had any athletic experience."

Zavorsky, who has a research-based PhD from the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine, is primarily interested in understanding the role of pulmonary gas exchange during strenuous exercise – in other words, determining how the lungs maintain adequate oxygen levels during intense exercise.

The results will help scientists determine why some of us fare better than others in endurance sports such as running or cycling, and it may help coaches and fitness consultants design more effective training programs for elite athletes, as well as for firefighters, military officers and others who work under stressful conditions.

"In a weight room, you hear people ask, 'how much can you bench press?'" says Zavorsky. "In my weight room, it's 'how much oxygen can you consume per minute?' Several recent studies have shown that gas exchange in the healthy exercising lung is far from perfect."

Zavorsky is eagerly anticipating this summer's opening of the Loyola Science Complex, which will allow him to set up a state-of-the-art laboratory with high-performance treadmills and exercise bikes. He plans to observe elite athletes, industrial workers and members of the general public as they sweat their way through strenuous exercise programs, all the while analyzing the size and content of the gases they inhale.

He and colleague Robert Boushel, who studies blood flow during exercise, have received nearly \$950,000 worth of equipment grants from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Government of Quebec.

And while Zavorsky, 31, hopes to contribute to the growing body of research in his field, he also plans to apply his findings to his own training regimen. He continues to race competitively, running in the California International Marathon in Sacramento last December. He finished in 59th out of 2,618 runners. P

Zavorsky is interested in understanding how the lungs maintain oxygen levels during strenuous exercise. "You don't have to be an athlete to work in the field," he says, "but it certainly helps."

Roberts with son Kristian, a History major

Zavorsky: not your run-of-the-mill academic



## Panorama wins CASE award

**P**anorama, Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science newsletter, was one of six university newsletters cited for excellence by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), an organization representing universities and colleges across North America. The award was presented in February to Derek Cassoff, the Faculty's Communications Coordinator, during CASE's annual district conference in New York City.

Panorama was competing against publications from CASE's District I, which encompasses universities and colleges in Quebec, Atlantic Canada and the New England states.

Founded in March of 2001, Panorama is published and distributed four times a year to more than 40,000 alumni, faculty members, staff and prospective students.



## A penny for his thoughts

**I**n an academic career that has spanned 30 years, Concordia University Economics Professor James McIntosh figures that he has shared his knowledge with thousands of students and at hundreds of conferences. But he doubts whether any of those audiences were as prestigious as the one he addressed last November, when he was invited to Parliament Hill to share his views on bank mergers with the Canadian Senate's Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Leo Kolber, was studying the implications that bank mergers might have on the Canadian public and had set aside several days to hear testimony from some of the country's leading economic thinkers.

McIntosh, an expert on economic theory, submitted a written paper and then fielded questions from the senators during a 45-minute session.

While he admits that he was awed by his surroundings, McIntosh says he was not nervous. "The senators were extremely genteel and a lot less adversarial than some of the audiences that I've spoken to at academic conferences," he says.

For the record, McIntosh is in favour of allowing Canada's top financial institutions to merge; he predicts that mergers will result in lower service fees for Canadians.



Andrew Dobrowolsky

## Snapshots

**Rev. Sean Harty**, who spent the past five years as a Lecturer in the Department of Theological Studies, has been appointed Episcopal Vicar for English-speaking Catholics in Montreal. The appointment means that Harty is now responsible for the religious needs of 190,000 Catholics in the Montreal region; he will also serve as an assistant to the local archbishop, Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte. Although the new position is a full-time job, Harty hopes to continue teaching at least one course per semester at Concordia. He is currently leading a practicum in Pastoral Ministry. Harty, 52, earned a BA in Theological Studies at Concordia in 1978. He previously spent 15 years as chief executive officer at St. Mary's Hospital.

**Shannon Smith** (Journalism) was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from the Canada Institutes of Health Research to help her achieve her goal of becoming a science writer. It's an unusually large grant for a journalism student, since the CIHR usually funds students pursuing pure science research. Smith, a graduate diploma student, has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Neuroscience, but has always enjoyed writing fiction and poetry.

**Susan Font** (Journalism) was awarded a \$20,000 grant from International Development and Research Canada to finance a six-month internship at the *Phnom Penh Post*, a bi-weekly English paper in Cambodia. Font will leave in May, shortly after she completes her graduate diploma. In addition to honing her writing and reporting skills, Font will meet with Cambodian journalism students and members of the Cambodian League for the Protection of Journalists. She also plans to get involved in a conservation project in

the northeastern part of the country.

Renowned historian Dr. Vivian Nelles, a Professor at York University, will deliver a public lecture at Concordia on Thursday, March 13, at 8:30 p.m. The lecture is entitled "The Artists of Canadian Nation Building, 1870-1914". It will take place in Room H-441 of the Henry F. Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). For more information, contact **Donna Whittaker** at (514) 848-2414.

Dr. Theocras Detorakis, a professor of Byzantine Philosophy at the University of Crete in Greece, will discuss Byzantine Studies when the **2003 Hellenic Studies Lecture Series** resumes on Wednesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. The lecture, which takes place in Room H-767 of the Henry F. Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.), is the third installment in the four-part lecture series. The series concludes on Friday, April 25, when Concordia professor Dr. Franziska Shlosser explores the past, present and future of Byzantine Studies curricula. For more information, contact **Dr. Nikos Metallinos** at (514) 848-2536.

Hundreds of educators and other professionals working in the field of Educational Technology are expected at Concordia at the end of May for the 30th National Conference of the Association of Media and Technology in Education in Canada (AMTEC). The four-day conference, which opens May 25, will offer English and French sessions addressing a wide range of issues dealing with the study and use of technology in education. For more information, call Maureen Baron at (514) 483-7200, ext. 7203, or visit the conference web site at [www.amtec.ca/conference](http://www.amtec.ca/conference).

## New Research Chair in math

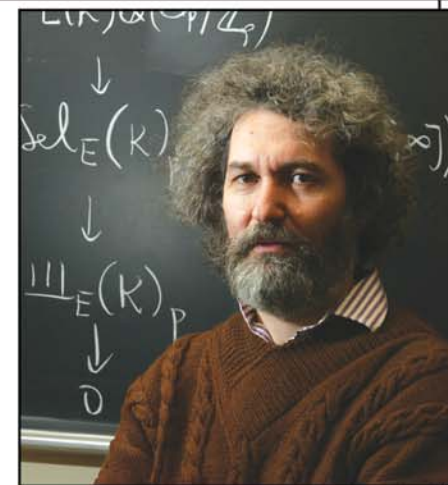
**C**oncordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science has been awarded a second Canada Research Chair, a move sparked by the appointment of Dr. Adrian Iovita, a top researcher in the field of Number Theory.

Iovita joined Concordia's Department of Mathematics and Statistics in January from the University of Washington.

A pure mathematician, Iovita studies the arithmetic properties of geometric objects, particularly elliptic curves. His findings are likely to be used by applied mathematicians in fields such as cryptography, which uses points on elliptic curves to encode information and keep it safe from hackers.

A native of Romania, Iovita first came to North America in 1991 to pursue a PhD in Number Theory at Boston University. He spent two years in Montreal as a post-doctoral fellow at CICMA, a research centre associated with the city's four universities.

Established in 2000, the Canada Research Chair program is part of the federal government's plan to help Canadian universities attract and keep top research talent. The Faculty was awarded its first Canada Research Chair a year ago with the appointment of Dr. Andreas Arvanitogiannis in the Department of Psychology.



Andrew Dobrowolsky

## A touch of Grey

**F**or four years, Sylvain Girard delighted Concordia University football fans with his knack for catching footballs. His 24 touchdown receptions still stand as a school record.

Girard's fan club has grown considerably since November, when he helped the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League capture the Grey Cup, the franchise's first championship in 25 years.

Girard, who graduated in 1999 with a degree in Exercise Science, did not catch a pass in the Alouettes' 25-16 win over the Edmonton Eskimos. But the fourth-year professional had a stellar year as a back-up wide receiver, catching 11 catches for 202 yards, including two touchdowns, during the regular season. He also saw considerable action on the Als' special teams units.

While at Concordia, Girard helped the Stingers advance to the Vanier Cup in 1998. He was also a two-time winner of the Ed Meagher Trophy, awarded annually to the football player with the highest level of academic achievement.



Patrick Sansiaçon



## Science Complex set for June occupancy

**B**ricklayers and plumbers are being replaced by painters and interior decorators, as work on the Loyola Science Complex enters its final stages over the next few weeks. Construction of the building remains on schedule and everything should be ready for occupancy by the beginning of June. The complex will open for classes in September.

The building has been fully enclosed for several weeks and most of the Gyprock subdividing the offices and laboratories has been installed. Work continues on the rooftop greenhouse atop what was once the Bryan Building; inside, walls are being painted, floors are being tiled and the installation of fumehoods, sinks and lab benches continues at a feverish pace.

In addition to the building itself, which carries an \$85-million price tag, the University is planning to purchase about \$3 million worth of furnishings and equipment, including \$750,000 worth of office furniture. Among the items being ordered are 400 desks, 630 lab stools and 250 bookcases.

Once complete, the Loyola Science Complex will house the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Exercise Science, Physics and a major component of Psychology, as well as Science College, the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, the Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology and several smaller research centres and support facilities.

To see continually updated video footage of the project, visit the Concordia Buildings web site at <http://buildings.concordia.ca>.

Pierre Dalpé

Pierre Dalpé

Andrew Dobrowolsky

Pierre Dalpé

Andrew Dobrowolsky

Pierre Dalpé

Andrew Dobrowolsky

## Graduate program in Exercise Science planned

**C**oncordia University's Department of Exercise Science has announced plans to create a Master's level program focusing on the field's rapid advances in research.

If approved by Quebec's Ministry of Education, the program could welcome its first students as early as September, 2004.

"Within the next two years, Exercise Science at Concordia University could very well become the premier graduate program in the field in all of Canada," says Bill Sellers, Chair of Concordia's Department of Exercise Science.

The Department of Exercise Science is one of only six departments in Canada offering undergraduate programs in Athletic Therapy and the only one with a program in Clinical Exercise Physiology. Paralleling the two-stream option at the undergraduate level, the department plans to offer its two-year graduate program with both an Athletic Therapy and a Clinical Exercise Physiology focus. Course offerings would be similar for the two streams, with students choosing a research thesis topic based on either of the two options.

The launch of a graduate program in Exercise Science comes at an opportune time for the Faculty of Arts and

Science, which is set to take occupancy of the Loyola Science Complex this summer. The new facility will provide the Department of Exercise Science with twice as much space as it currently occupies in the Drummond Science Building. The Department's facilities will include six research laboratories, outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment that will enable scientists to study

sports injuries and chronic disease conditions from both a mechanistic and an applied approach.

The Department is also in the midst of hiring a new group of energetic faculty members, each with a strong research background. Many of these professors have experience supervising graduate students and have had success in procuring external research grants – the

fuel for any successful graduate program.

Although an undergraduate degree in Exercise Science would not be a prerequisite for the graduate program, Sellers figures that the new program will attract clinical practitioners who wish to add a research component to their careers.

"The clinical practitioner's job is very well-defined and, over time, some people may want to branch off in a different direction," he says. "This program can open the door to a research-oriented career."

“Within the next two years, Exercise Science at Concordia University could very well become the premier graduate program in the field in all of Canada.”





Reimer (right) with Tom Beckley of UNB: small-town boys

## Small towns, big ideas

Concordia professor heads up national research team studying life in rural Canada

At first glance, Bill Reimer may seem like an unlikely champion for rural communities. He was born and raised in Vancouver, the most cosmopolitan of Western Canada's cities, and has spent his entire professional career in Montreal, where his office window on the sixth floor of Concordia University's McConnell Pavilion takes in a sweeping view of concrete towers and congested streets.

But when Reimer is not in his office, chances are you'll find him in places like Twillingate, Nfld. (pop. 3,000), Hussar, Alta. (pop. 160) or, for that matter, just about any village where the cows, or lobster traps or mine shafts outnumber the townsfolk.

A Professor of Sociology, Reimer heads up the New Rural Economy (NRE) project, a team of Canadian researchers who have spent the past five years studying the country's rural communities and the challenges they face in a rapidly-changing world.

The team, made up of researchers from 14 universities and Statistics Canada, was propelled into the news last fall when Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council awarded the group \$3 million over four years to further explore changes affecting rural communities as a result of new technologies.

The grant, one of the largest ever awarded to social science research, was announced by Industry Minister Allan Rock during a visit to Montreal last November. It is part of a government plan to pump \$100 million into research projects designed to help Canadians understand the forces that are transforming the world economy.

"They're looking for projects that will produce results," Reimer says of the granting agencies. "We have a tremendous track record."

Reimer's team, established in 1998, has so far painted a detailed portrait of life in rural Canada. Relying on census data provided by Statistics Canada, researchers first set out to document the demographic, geographical and economic characteristics of 32 rural sites, representing a cross-section of fishing, farming and mining towns.

Researchers also gathered information about small businesses, access to services, and community leadership at each of the sites and conducted nearly 2,000 household interviews in order to understand how individual families are responding to changes in the new economy.

Their initial research reveals that automation and globalization are shaking the very foundations of small-town Canada. Many rural communities, particularly those that are tied to resource-based industries, are having a tough time coping with economic changes, Reimer says.

Most resource industries, including the mining and farming sectors, are in the process of becoming mechanized and require fewer labourers than ever before. As young people search for opportunities elsewhere, rural

(see *Small town*, page 16)

Reimer's research has shown that automation and globalization are shaking the very foundations of small-town Canada.

## A town under scrutiny

Residents of Tweed open their doors to outside researchers

Tweed, Ont. — There's a certain rhythm to life in a small town. The local residents go about their business at a slow but determined pace, interrupting their errands to exchange pleasantries with each other. Unfamiliar faces are few and far between.

Tweed, a quaint Ontario town of 1,600 located midway between Toronto and Ottawa, would certainly fit that description.

So when researchers from the New Rural Economy (NRE) project appeared in Tweed two years ago, armed with copious questions and running tape recorders, the townsfolk were bound to take notice — especially after news of their arrival was splashed across the pages of the local paper.

"People were curious, and for the most part they were receptive," says Evan Morton, a former town councillor and curator of the Tweed Heritage Centre and Museum.

A year earlier, Tweed had been one of 32 Canadian towns and villages randomly selected by investigators with Concordia University's NRE project in a bid to understand the challenges facing rural life in Canada. When researchers arrived here, they wanted to know all about rural life — what sorts of stresses the local residents were under, what they thought of their municipal leaders, how often they surfed the Internet and whether they chopped their own firewood.

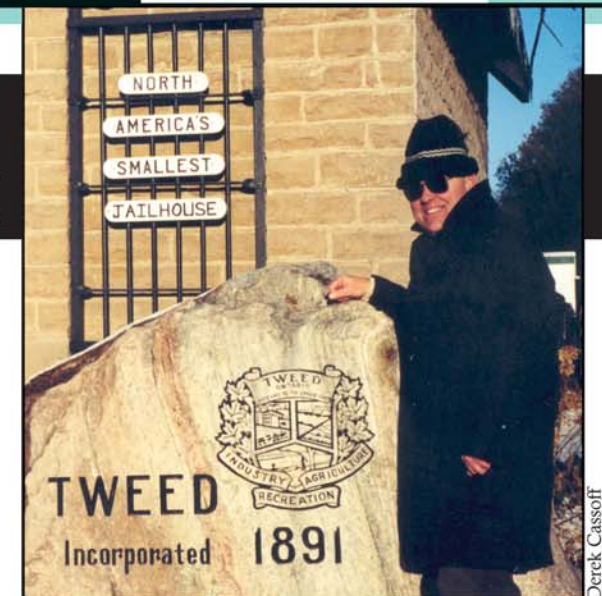
Community leaders have welcomed the opportunity to have their town scrutinized by academic experts.

"When you're immersed in your community, you tend to be forgiving of your weaknesses and sometimes it takes an outside person to come in and open your eyes to your own community" says Morton. "I think this survey has been good for us. It's caused people to think about what kind of community they want."

In the wake of the NRE surveys, many of Tweed's residents appear to have taken a more active interest in their community, says Douglas Mumford, who serves as the town's reeve, or mayor. The town recently launched an economic development plan — its first in many years — and municipal leaders relied on many of the NRE survey results to gauge the community's mood and determine which problems they should tackle.

There are certainly plenty of issues to deal with in Tweed, which once housed several manufacturing plants and dozens of government jobs. Much of the manufacturing sector has fallen victim to automation and unfavourable economies of scale, while many public-service positions have been axed by Ontario's cost-cutting government.

Faced with an exodus of its young people, Tweed is trying to use its scenic surroundings and a burgeoning artisan community to reinvent itself as a tourist centre. "We need to come up with non-traditional solutions," says Richard Cantin of the Tweed Chamber of Commerce. **P**



Morton: watching Tweed's small-town fabric change

"I think this survey has been good for us. It's caused people to think about what kind of community they want."





Perreault: first-class research

## A bon voyage

New travel stipend enables doctoral student to visit U.S. archives

**R**eine Perreault has enough difficulty paying the rent and stocking her pantry with groceries. The thought of spending money on travel is out of the question for the Concordia University student, who supplements her full-time studies with some part-time clerical work in a local law firm.

So when Perreault, a doctoral student in the Department of History, set out to conduct research for her dissertation detailing the U.S. attitude towards China during the early part of the 20th century, she faced the unenviable prospect of digging for information while confined to Montreal.

That changed last year when Perreault received the inaugural Dagobert Broh Research Stipend – an annual \$3,000 grant intended to help graduate students in History defray travel costs incurred during the course of conducting their research.

The stipend, along with an annual \$12,000 graduate fellowship that will be awarded for the first time later this year, are the result of a bequest left to Concordia by Dagobert Broh, a History graduate who completed his doctoral degree seven years ago, at the age of 91. Broh passed away four years ago.

For Perreault, gaining access to original documents is crucial to completing her thesis, in which she intends to explore the American view of the Chinese between 1900 and 1925.

“In history, especially at the PhD level, you need to work with the original documents that were created at the time of the events that you are studying,” says History Professor Frank Chalk, who serves as Perreault’s dissertation supervisor. “They put the reader back in the position of the decision makers, so that you can better understand the mentality of the social and political actors of the time.”

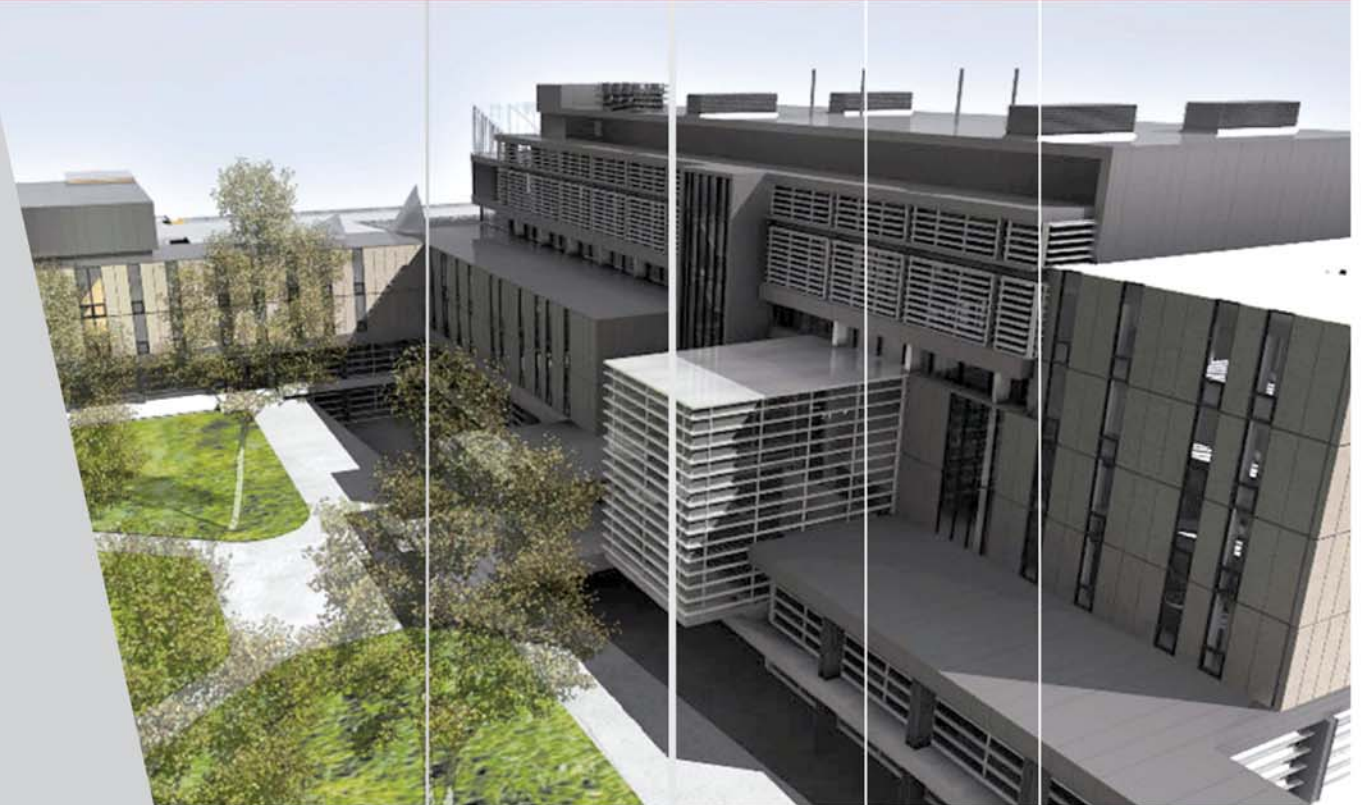
Perreault spent 11 weeks in the United States last summer, starting out at Yale University’s Divinity College in New Haven, Conn., which houses a large collection of diaries and correspondence written by U.S. missionaries. She divided the rest of her time between the ornate Library of Congress manuscript collection in Washington D.C. and the National Archives and Record Administration facility in suburban College Park, Md.

Even with the travel stipend, Perreault’s trip was anything but luxurious; she traveled between cities by bus and spent two weeks living at a youth hostel, where she shared a bunk bed with a fellow budget traveler. Even photocopies, which cost 20 cents U.S., were made sparingly; instead, Perreault took copious notes of what she had read.

But don’t expect to hear Perreault complaining. “I traveled the cheapest way possible,” she says. “But I had a very good time. I loved every second of it.” **P**

Perreault spent 11 weeks digging for information in U.S. archives. Gaining access to original documents is critical to her research

## What science looks like in the 21st Century



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## Hot choice

(continued from page 3)

English and learning some French on the side," says Chandler, who recently returned from a two-week recruitment trip to Norway.

Other factors that play a role in helping Concordia's international recruitment efforts include Montreal's reputation as a world-class city with a European flair, as well as its low crime rate and ample recreational opportunities.

And of course, Canada's reasonable tuition rates and Montreal's affordable cost-of-living also serve as important selling points. International undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Science pay approximately \$10,000 a year in tuition. That compares to fees as high as \$30,000 US a year at some private colleges in the United States.

But if choosing to study at Concordia is an easy decision, the adjustment to life in a foreign country can be somewhat more distressing, says Claudette Fortier, coordinator of Concordia's International Students Office. Looking for an apartment can be especially difficult for newcomers who don't speak English well or who are unfamiliar with tenants' rights.

"These students are new in town, they're in a new academic environment, in a new culture," says Fortier. "It's normal for them to feel lost or disoriented."

The International Student Office runs orientation sessions for newcomers at the start of each semester. Its Housing Support Group maintains a databank of vacant apartments and matches new arrivals with returning students to facilitate their initial apartment hunt.

And for many international students, the euphoria of being away from home for the first time often gives way to homesickness – a feeling that is exacerbated by the onset of mid-term exams and the shorter days of fall.

Studying abroad "is a very intense experience and international students have to do it without the support of family and childhood friends around them," says Synnove Follestad, a Political Science student from Norway and co-president of the Concordia International Students' Association.

The association hosts regular social and networking events throughout the year, including camping trips, ski weekends and bus trips to surrounding sites.

For more information on the International Student Office, visit <http://advocacy.concordia.ca/international/iso.html>. **P**

## Small town

(continued from page 12)

communities are left with aging populations and dwindling tax bases, and are unable to sustain their traditional levels of service.

One test site – Tumbler Ridge, B.C. – is battling for its very survival after the local coal mine was shut down.

In addition to studying rural communities, Reimer and his colleagues also advocate on their behalf, bringing the project's research findings to the attention of provincial and federal politicians.

While only one in five Canadians live in rural communities today – a fact that some would say is reflected in the scant attention that politicians pay to rural issues – Reimer believes that the plight of small towns is one that affects all Canadians.

"Strong rural communities are necessary to maintaining a safe and abundant food supply and a clean supply of water for urban people," he says. "They also process urban waste and pollution, and offer a place of rejuvenation for a stressed-out population."

For more information, visit <http://nre.concordia.ca>. **P**

## Contributors

*Panorama* is published four times a year by Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science. Its mandate is to provide current information on the many activities of the Faculty.

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